

Camp Mansfield, Bayou Boeuf

March 29th 1863

Dear Mother,

I rec'd your very kind letter of the 8th inst. yesterday saying you had rec'd the checks we sent. We expect to have had some more to send before this time but we have not got our pay as we expected, we probably will not get it *untill* the 1st of May, we are getting out of money and stamps but we can get along without the money very well if we are well, and tobacco we can get trusted for at the sutter *untill* pay day so if you will send me a few stamps I will try and get along. I wrote you a letter last week before we left Brashear and Harrison wrote you one since we got here. I suppose he wrote you all about our leaving that place, we had a very good camp ground up there but it is very different here, we are camped in a larger Cane field on the bank of the Bayou, it is an awful place a half hour's rain will make it so bad that we can hardly get through the mud, but when the sun makes its appearance it's soon dry again, it is awful warm here now in the middle of the day but it is cool enough as soon as the sun disappears, the *musqueto*es there is no end to.

There has nothing transpired here of any account since we ~~we~~ came to this camp. Our men met with quite a sad disaster up Bayou Teche above Brashear since we left there, the gun boat Diana went up the Bayou in search of the Queen of the West which the Rebs took from us ~~at past~~ by Pattersonville without any trouble they did not apprehend any danger *untill* they in the midst of three Reb Batteries which were concealed on the bank of the Bayou and about 500 Infantry which pound *fourth* an outrageous volley of grape and canister into the vessel, most of them taking effect in the channel being so narrow that she could not get away so they had to stand and take it *untill* they were disabled so that they were compelled to run up a white ~~flag~~ flag after they had done that the *villians* fired three volleys more at the doomed vessel and crew, there was two companies of the 160th N. Y. aboard of her, they were all taken prisoners with the boat's crew but two the pilot and captains waiter who made their escape by swimming ashore. Our loss was eight killed nine drowned and twenty wounded, the boat was of but little account it being merely a Miss river flag boat. We are now in Gen. Weitzel's Brigade we like him first rate, he is not one of those "stuck up" officers that our army is over run with who came for nothing but the big pay they get, he is a man that a private can talk with as well as a "shoulder strap

man," his every day dress is as plain as my and I'm looking over my portfolio I see that I am getting rather short for writing material and I have no way to get them and [CO] I guess if you have it handy you may send me a dollar or two if I had a dollar now I could get my picture taken to send you, the boys from L— are all well, except Dan and Jerry, they are getting along very well. Will Davis we have not heard from in six weeks the last we heard he was agoing to get his discharge.

I have time to write no more. Give my love to all and write soon.

Yours,

J. F. Brand